Public Works Updates

-Mark Dorsey, P.E., Public Works Director

New Public Works Personnel and/or Positions: The City of Port Orchard Public Works Department is excited to announce that the Department has successfully hired a replacement for a long time employee (41-years of dedicated service) and is currently in the process of interviewing/hiring two newly approved full-time employment positions associated with the Storm Drainage Utility permit compliance.

2015 Water Main/Hydrant Flushing Schedule: The schedule for semi-annual flushing of the City’s water mains and fire hydrant is as follows:

February 23rd thru 27th  City/Downtown
June 22nd thru 26th  City/Downtown
June 29th thru July 1st  City/McCormick Woods
October 5th thru 9th  City/Downtown

Cross-Connection Control Program: As a function of the City’s continued water quality efforts and in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and the State Department of Health (Chapter 246-290 WAC) Cross-Connection Control Regulations, in late 2014 the City’s Public Works Department initiated a city-wide Cross-Connection Control Program review with the City’s Building Department and South Kitsap Fire and Rescue. The purpose of the Program overview was to confirm compliance coordination amongst the different Departments and to ensure that Best Practices and Reporting has been, and will continue to be, successfully implemented and practiced. Generally speaking, a “cross-connection” is any actual or potential connection between a potable public water supply and a non-potable source of contamination or pollution. Unfortunately, cross-connections ‘can’ occur at many points throughout a potable water distribution system and can provide a means for the flow of water or other liquids, mixtures or substances back into the potable public water supply through backsiphonage or backpressure. Having a viable Cross-Connection Control Program in place is critical to preventing the backflow of non-potable sources to ensure the safety of the drinking water provided to our water system customers.

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Upcoming Events

-Clerk’s Office

- President’s Day, February 16, City Hall Closed
- Work Study Session, February 17, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- SKHS NJROTC Soup Feed Fundraiser, February 19, 7:00 p.m., Port Orchard Armory
- Council Meeting, February 24, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- Daylight Savings Time, March 8
2015 Spring/Fall Clean-Up Week Schedule: The schedule for the 2015 Spring/Fall Clean-up Week(s) will be provided within the April newsletter, as the City’s Public Works Department is in the process of coordinating schedules with our Clean-Up Week Partner, Waste Management.

Customer’s Views Welcome
Please call us at our Public Works Admin Office at 360-876-4991 or email publicworks@cityofportorchard.us with any questions. For billing information call 360-876-5139.

Domestic Violence
-Port Orchard Police Department
People either love or hate Valentine’s Day. They can be uplifted or isolated by the explosion of red and pink decorations and gifts plastered with roses and cupids. One way to recreate this holiday is to make it less about chocolates, jewelry, and admirers, and more about spreading love. Valentine’s Day can be a great day to raise awareness for the sinister side of relationships: domestic violence.

Domestic violence is defined as “the establishment of control or fear in a relationship through physical, sexual, emotional, and/or financial abuse”. Such abuse can happen to ANYONE – no matter his or her background.

Too many men, women, and their family members are affected by domestic violence: according to the statistics kept by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence there have been 177 domestic violence homicides in Washington State from 2010-2014. The FBI reports that nationwide a person is beaten every 9 seconds. Each number is more than a statistic. It is a person who lived, breathed, loved and had a family that loved them back; a mother, sister, daughter, friend, brother, son, father that needed help.

Domestic Violence is not just physical
The physical consequences of intimate partner violence are very serious. However, emotional and psychological consequences abound as well. For example, a person with a history of experiencing domestic violence is more likely to display higher-risk behaviors, such as substance abuse, alcoholism, and suicide attempts.

Domestic Violence is present in all walks of life
Domestic violence doesn’t just happen to “those” people. Domestic violence is present in all areas of society. Someone you know and love maybe suffering silently in a domestic violence relationship right now. Domestic violence victims can become very good at presenting a “normal” life to their coworkers, friends, and family. Sometimes the fear of change and/or loss of income, living situation, or status are enough to keep victims in an abusive relationship. Domestic violence victims are not all women. Men can be the victims of domestic violence too. Their abuse is real and male victims are less likely to seek help for fear of being embarrassed, teased, or ridiculed.

How to help
If you know someone who is in an abusive relationship, it can feel like a helpless situation. A victim of
Domestic Violence may only drop a few hints here and there. Don’t sweep those under the carpet and pretend the conversation didn’t just “go there” because the subject may become too uncomfortable for you. These hints at abuse maybe the victims only attempt at getting help. There are important steps you can take to help and support them:

- Listen and be supportive. Be there when you are needed.
- Offer suggestions and ideas, not opinions. Don’t try to make decisions for them.
- Don’t belittle them for not immediately packing up and leaving for good.
- Let them know that their feelings are OK and that it’s not their fault.
- Remember that change takes time and your friend is facing hard choices. If they decide to leave, it may be a long process. A person will leave their abuser 7 – 8 times, on average, before ending the relationship for good.
- Contact Law Enforcement if you become aware of an abuse situation that is occurring.
- It is better your friend be angry with you for involving law enforcement, than die at the hands of their abuser.

**If you are being abused**

You need to first recognize and acknowledge the signs of abuse. The abuser may have slowly conditioned you into compliance and acceptance of your current abusive situation. You may even be convinced your situation is “normal”. You have the right to break that abusive cycle and protect yourself from a person who is abusing you.

Do you recognize any of these signs of abuse in your relationship?

**Controlling**: takes charge of the household money; demands to know your whereabouts; threatens to leave or throw you out; forces you to socialize, even if you don’t feel like it; withholds affection or attention; tells you how to dress; makes sure that the one thing you want is exactly what you won’t get

**Isolation**: causes a rift between you and your family; slowly makes you stop spending time with your friends; all of his/her friends are now your friends; doesn’t allow you to go places without him/her; withholds money so you can’t go anywhere

**Crazy-making**: blames his/her mistakes on others; is a different person in public than he (she) is at home; changes history (denies saying or doing something that you know he/she did); tells you you’re too sensitive; has unpredictable mood swings; twists your words and uses them against you.

**Emotional**: disrespectful to you; harms animals or things you love; rolls his/her eyes at you; humiliates you privately or in public; seems energized by fighting; says things that make you feel good but does things that make you feel bad; treats you like a sex object; refuses to acknowledge you: silent treatment: uses your children against you or attempts to turn them against you.

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Physical: hitting; pinching; throwing objects at you; pushing; blocks you from leaving the room or house; holds you down; forces you to have sex.

If you are experiencing these things in your relationship, you need to seek help immediately. The following are some ideas to help you make needed changes:

- **Disengage**—Before preparing to leave your abusive partner, you need to regain some of your power. First of all don’t announce that you are leaving them. It will only make your situation escalate or they will act like the perfect partner for a while until he begins abusing you again. However, you can stop the pattern of: abuse, guilt, excuses, normal behavior, fantasy, set-up then back to abuse. Instead disengage when they try to bait you into an argument.

- **Secretly Save Money**—If your abusive partner controls finances, this can be difficult but not impossible. Get a post office box that any mail from the bank can use to send statements. If you don’t set up a secret account, find a place away from the house to hide your money. A few alternate places are a locker at work, with a trusted friend, or a safe deposit box. If you receive your paycheck through direct deposit, have some of it go into a different account.

- **Get Help**—Many people stay in abusive relationships because they are too embarrassed to tell their friends and family. If your partner acts like Mr./Ms. Perfect when their in public, you may feel that no one will believe you. Although your family and friends love you, you may have trouble believing it if you’ve been emotionally beaten down. More people love and care about you than the abuser has lead you to believe. You can contact your local women’s shelter or domestic violence hotline for help. They are experienced with helping people thru the process of leaving and healing. This is NOT something you have to go through alone.

- **Protection Orders**—If you or your children are being abused, threatened or stalked, you can apply for a Protection Order. This involves filing a case in court and asking a judge to give an order protecting you from another person. A Protection Order won’t always stop your abuser from contacting you, but it gives Law Enforcement the tools to do something about it before more abuse occurs.

There are additional ways you can help STOP domestic violence. You can donate your time and money to local shelters, hot lines, and legal advocacy groups. Your generosity can provide a second chance for a victim. Be respectful and kind in all your relationships. Never turn a blind eye to a friend or family member’s abuse. Spend this Valentine’s Day thankful for those you love and that love you back, as well as mindful that real love doesn’t hurt.

Remember if Domestic Violence is occurring, **Dial 911**. An officer will respond immediately. You are not alone. If you would like further information on Domestic Violence you can contact the YWCA/Alive program at **360-479-5118** or their 24 Hour Hotline at **360-479-1980**.